

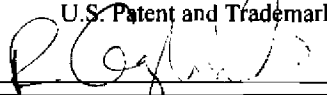
P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: GENE DIPOTO et al. Confirmation No.: 1092
Serial No.: 10/693,815 Examiner: ANURADHA RAMANA
Filing Date: OCTOBER 24, 2003 Group Art Unit: 3733
Docket No.: 1291.1143101 Customer No.: 28075
Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR STABILIZING THE SPINE
THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE

AMENDMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR §1.111

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION: | |
| The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on this <u>8th</u> day of April, 2008. | |
| Signature:  | Name: Rachel Gagliardi |

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action of the Examiner mailed January 11, 2008, with a shortened statutory period set to expire on April 11, 2008. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 9 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.